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DEC. 19-25

MATWATCH

213 PINE HILLS AVE. AUBURN,AL. 36830 (205)826-7522

VOL. 1, NO. 26

STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS By Steve Beverly

JERRY LAWLER UNIFIES AWA, WCCW BELTS; POWW MATCH BOMBS AT SUPER CLASH

CHICAGO - In a finish vaguely reminiscent of the Ric Flair-Lex Luger climax at the Great American Bash, Jerry Lawler unified both the AWA and World Class heavyweight championship belts in a TKO victory over Kerry Von Erich Tuesday night at the U.I.C. Pavillion. The SUPER CLASH III joint effort of the AWA and Jerry Jarrett's CWA and World Class promotions played to a crowd of approximately 1,700 and an estimated national pay-cable audience of 45,000 homes.

In the main event, Lawler was awarded the belts in 19:52 when referee Marty Miller ruled Von Erich, the victim of three "foreign object" blows during the match, was bleeding too excessively. At the time, Von Erich had Lawler in his iron claw, seemingly headed for victory. Von Erich, whose bicep inexplicably juiced almost from the start, was piledriven by Lawler at 7:50 but didn't sell it a bit. Kerry countered with his own piledriver at 9:26 and had Lawler down for a 7-count but Miller had been decked on a Lawler kickout and only revived to register a two-count on "The King."

Lawler decked Von Erich at 11:05 with an object and followed up with his piston punch for a 2-count. Von Erich first established his claw at 12:06 and applied it to Lawler's head at 13:00. Lawler rallied to use his object again at 15:20 and despite a juicing eye, followed up with a powerful series of five jabs and a right cross. A double right handed punch decked both men at 19:00 but Kerry recovered to apply his claw at 19:32 and Lawler kicked out on two at 19:46. Six seconds later, Miller checked Von Erich's face and stopped the bout, much to the consternation of WCCW's Frank Dusek. Yet, Kerry left the ring with the two belts, leading observers to believe another rematch is in the offing.

Overall, the match was a great brawl and registered the most sustained pop of a rather lackluster evening. Match rating: PILEDRIVER...for giving the best of what was expected from both. The remainder of the SCIII card:

ROCK & ROLL EXPRESS VS. STUD STABLE (Double DQ): In another puzzling move, this match was inserted AFTER the unification match and both teams were rushed during its 6:46. Morton & Gibson had an early flurry and at one point, Robert Fuller accidentally stomped his partner, Jimmy Golden. Gibson was tossed out of the ring at 4:18 and was given four good licks by Sylvia Fuller with a kendo stick. After rallying to tag Morton, a four-man brawl erupted and both teams were disqualified, even though nothing was going on to merit it. Rating: DRAW.

INDIAN STRAP MATCH / WAHOO MCDANIEL D. MANNY FERNANDEZ: Both men bled like pigs but Wahoo gained the victory at 9:22 when, after touching three turnbuckles, Fernandez kicked him into the fourth and final one. Tatsumi Fujinami was introduced as IWGP champ before this match and, strangely, was taunted by Manny. Fujinami full-nelsoned Fernandez for Wahoo to strap as the match began and made a save afterward when Manny was giving McDaniel a post-match pummelling. Rating: RESTHOLD-PLUS...strap matches are getting old with me.

WCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP / SAMOAN SWAT TEAM d. MICHAEL HAYES & STEVE COX: Cox carried most of the first five minutes but Hayes tagged in at 7:05 and began working over both Samoans. Cox did a Fosbury flop over the top rope onto Samu at 8:05 and Michael DDT'd Fatu at 8:15. But the ref was watching Cox and Samu and Buddy Roberts sneaked in with a loaded glove, clobbered Hayes and Fatu scored the pin at 8:25. POWERSLAM.

SGT. SLAUGHTER D. COL. DEBEERS (DQ): In this boot camp match, Sarge used his cannon at 4:00 and began butting DeBeers with his helmet. Then at 5:07, it was the Cobra Clutch, which brought in Sheik Adnan al-Kaissie, Diamond Dallas Page and (surprise) The Iron Sheik for a run-in. The Guererro Brothers made the save and Sarge went into the aisle after the Iron Sheik. Sarge really looked old here and not much heat from the crowd. RESTHOLD.

POWW LINGERIE BATTLE ROYAL: In a match billed that a woman would be eliminated by going over the to or by having her clothing ripped away, the losers all went over the top and the match never delivered what was billed. David McLane was almost as obnoxious as David Crockett on the mike. Oh, yes, The Terrorist won, tossing out Brandi Mae at the end. BOMB-PLUS.

AWA TV TITLE / GREG GAGNE D. RONNIE GARVIN (Countout): In the AWA's inimitable wisdom (and protection against

Garvin, now in the WWF, no-showing), fans were told Stanley Blackburn had returned the belt to Greg before the match because of his supposed illegal move in winning the title. Greg was tossed into a table at 5:30 but shook off Ronnie, who posted at 5:42. Greg rolled back in the ring and Garvin was counted out (the fastest 10 count of the year) at 5:50. Greg was booed more than anyone on the card. RESTHOLD-PLUS...Greg tried to wrestle a Ric Flair match and failed miserably.

WENDI RICHTER & TOP GUNS D. BADD COMPANY & MEDUSA MICELI: In a match billed as having both Wendi's AWA ladies' title and Tanaka & Diamond's AWA tag belts on the line, Wendi scored the fall on Medusa at 6:55 when Pat missed a karate kick and caught Miceli. The Top Guns (Ricky Rice & Derrick Dukes) walked out with the tag belts but not until an hour later were we told the Guns didn't win the titles because they didn't score the fall (is this making sense at all?). Medusa had on FloJo tights and slapped Tanaka afterward for screwing up. DRAW.

TEXAS CHAMPIONSHIP / ICEMAN PARSONS D. BRICKHOUSE BROWN: As flat as you could expect. Brickhouse got no pop and Iceman used knucks to win in 5:41. BOMB-PLUS.

JIMMY VALIANT D. WAYNE BLOOM: Only one comment about this 27-second match: WHY? DOUBLE BOMB.

NCCW LIGHT HWT. TITLE / ERIC EMBRY D. JEFF JARRETT: Follow the bouncing belt, as Embry wins in 4:45 by reversing a sunset flip. Both acted as faces and Jarrett never rallied after "hurting his shoulder" at 3:20. Almost no pop here but good wrestling. DRAW.

GUERERRO BROS. D. RPMs/CACTUS JACK FOLEY: Good action for an opener except when Foley slowed it, as Chavo pinned Tommy Lane at 6:45 with the Owen Hart reverse flip. DRAW-PLUS.

BEST LINES - LARRY NELSON: "I'm disoriented...and I'm confused."; MICELI: "I never needed no man in my corner."; VON ERICH: "There's only one Mona Lisa. There's only one Leaning Tower of PIZZA." (he really said it!); LEE MARSHALL, on McDaniel-Fernandez blood: "Therse 2 guys are cracked open like a couple of eggs."; MARSHALL: "He (Kerry) is opened up like an old can."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - GREG GAGNE: "The fans here--they like Ron Garvin. That's their prerogative. He reminds me of the Chicago Bears."; WAHOO: "Beating him (Fernandez) is not what I want, 'cause I want him dead!"

SUPER CLASH SIDELIGHTS: I give them credit for pulling this off. The wrestling was actually better overall than two of the WWF pay-per-view shows this year but the crowd enthusiasm was only sustained in the main event.....FNN/SCORE is hoping for a 1-1.5% buy-rate but a quick survey indicates the figure is probably around 0.7-0.8, or around 40-45,000 homes, for about a $675,000 gross....I have felt Lee Marshall was a quality announcer but I really became agitated with his superlatives ("This is, without doubt, the greatest card of all time"..."The Guererros are the greatest wrestling tacticians in the world today.") and where he got his information that Kerry had beaten Hulk Hogan would be of interest to me.

Lighting appeared weak but you could see the scores of empty seats; however, the camerawork was hot and cold: two of Mando Guererro's flying moves were missed but Medusa's slap of Tanaka was a nice closeup and I thought the shots were well-concentrated during the unification match....Ray Stevens joins Steve Williams, David Crockett & Billy Graham on the list of favorite color commentators....At least we had crisp post-match interviews with the key winners, something the NWA rarely does on PPV or CLASH cards, but I thought if Nelson interviewed one more POWW girl, I'd explode. I recognize the need to establish their identities but seven interviews were ridiculous.

We did have good use of replays but I'd have waited on the Kerry-Lawler Nashville match tape until just before the main event to set it up in a timely fashion....Once again, I'm critical of no genuine pre-edited tape opening to establish the theme of this event. This show was a hard enough sell to the PPV audience and it needed a much stronger visual setup at the opening....Overall, I admire FNN/SCORE for their efforts but, aside from the main event and maybe 2 other matches, this looked more like a 3-hour ESPN show, rather than a PPV.

RATING: Overall Production, 2.6; Quality of Matches, 2.2; Crowd Enthusiasm, 1.4; Announcing, 2.0; Overall Excellence, 2.2. TOTAL: 10.4 on a scale of 25, well below the other "supercards" of the year...but still, not a total disaster.

---I visited with NWA president Jack Petrik for nearly two hours last Monday. Most of our conversation will remain private but I came away convinced that, while increasing numbers of the wrestling media are writing TBS off already, their ideas will change that thinking. Execution is the key but I believe they will weather the current storm.

---A proposed Road Warriors-Tenryu vs. Ron Simmons-Steve Casey-Stallion 6-man title match for CLASH V Feb. 15 was sent back to Jim Crockett as "unacceptable."

---Crockett had led TBS execs to believe he had Ric Flair vs. Ricky Steamboat all signed for the Feb. 20 PPV from Chicago. Last week, they learned no deal was made. Guess who's not happy.

---Serious rumors are spreading that David Woods is about to exit the wrestling game after less than a year. I tried and failed to reach David last week for comment but two former CWFers say they expect Ron Fuller will be promoting the Alabama/Gulf Coast area again some time in '89.

---Ken Wayne did quit CWF over pay. His last one-week check was $160. Same for Dutch Mantel just as his TV angle with Tom Prichard was heating. CWF tried to get Dutch back for spot shows but when he asked for a guarantee, they said no.

---A group called GEORGIA'S BEST WRESTLING, composed heavily of SCW and former Deep South workers, ran a show before 450 fans ($2,700) in Carrollton GA Dec. 11, headlined by Adrian Street in a double DQ vs. Ken Wayne. Mr. Wrestling II/Ted Oates d. Mr. Atlanta (Tony Zane)/The Psycho; Bambi d. Joyce Grable; and in a battle of former Nightmares, Billy Powell met Ted Allen, who promoted the show.

---Portland TV from Dec. 10: Scott Peterson DQ over Art Crews; Al Madril drew with Rex King; Steve Doll DQ over Abuda Dein.

---Only 450 showed for the NWA TV taping in Raleigh last Thursday (for this weekend's air): in the WORLD WIDE taping, The Fantastics took a 2-3 fall rematch from the Original Midnight Express in a show-length bout that saw Cornette set up a screw job third fall. Told the NWA PRO show was "awful," headlined by a 6-woman tag match with Misty Blue Simmes heading the winners' team. It actually ran 13 minutes and included a 200-pound black woman who reportedly spilled out of her togs several times. Certainly not the most memorable affair Ross & Caudle have ever called.

---One NWA official even insists that Al Perez will be back but most of my info is that he's definitely gone.

COMINGS & GOINGS

---Speaking of Jim Ross, he hasn't been approached yet by TBS officials but he is held in high regard by them, take my word for it. I hope Jim hears that from them personally in short order.

---Word has it that Kerry Von Erich was supposed to do a job for Lawler at SCIII, refused, and Lawler created the ending. Kerry supposedly threatened to "go to the WWF" otherwise. Jerry Jarrett was not present at the live show.

---Get this: WORLD CLASS' syndicated effort in our area last Saturday had no audio on Marc Lowrance & Frank Dusek, only crowd noise. I don't know if that's good or bad.

---In all likelihood, the TBS WCW tapings will soon move to the old dinner theatre inside the CNN CENTER complex in Atlanta. It seats roughly 500-700 people and would probably provide greater ambience for the show.

---Jan. 7, in its new time period of 7:05 (EST), WCW will offer a year-end review, which will include STARRCADE highlights and a replay of the FLAIR-STING classic from CLASH I.

---Sometime in '89, the NWA morning show will feature a rookie competition to provide more significance for the jobbers. They'll compete on a point system for seedings in a year-end tournament.

---TBS was so dissatisfied with Saturday's WCW, it has threatened to pull any future show that low in quality and replace it with an edited CLASH. Plus, the a.m. show was a disaster, simply because David Crockett never played along with Paul E. Dangerously's act and kept stepping on all of his best lines. It ruined Paul E.'s effectiveness and further mired David in my doghouse.

---CWF's Brad Armstrong-Tom Prichard title matchup airs a week from Saturday during the week the promotion shuts down.

---FNN wrestling is officially on hiatus until further notice. They're trying to realign a first quarter schedule. Dan Wolf is trying for a regular call-in show and would like to get PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK.

---FNN's buy-rate figures for SCIII won't be final until late this week but the network is already shooting for another PPV show in April.

---The TBS people are genuinely interested in hearing what you think about their product, particularly if you offer constructive suggestions. You can send your comments to: UNIVERSAL WRESTLING CORPORATION, ONE CNN CENTER, BOX 105366, ATLANTA GA 30348-5366.

---The Eddie Gilbert-Barry Windham match Saturday night on WCW is said to be excellent. I won't spoil the finish (if you read it elsewhere, fine) but expect a lot of heat during a post-match interview between Flair, Windham, Gilbert & Bam Bam Bigelow (who has not quit).

---Dangerously surely tried to nudge open the door that Dustin Rhodes & Kendall Windham may eventually split because "Barry and Dusty don't get along."

---Interestingly, David Woods and Don Owen were both thanked twice on SCIII but unless you consider DeBeers an Owen man, neither had a wrestler on the card.

---Long Island protesters, including MATWATCHer Mike Gendelman, had a hearing Tuesday night on the loss of Madison Square Garden Network from Cablevision. But the New York Office of Consumer Protection is virtually powerless to enforce changes in a system which costs Long Island viewers live wrestling from the Garden.

---Finally, STARRCADE will clear close to 10 million homes but no outlets in former Crockett strongholds of Greensboro and Charlotte.

CABLE RATINGS RAP

	Rating	Share
WWF PTW (USA - 12/12)	3.3	4.8
NWA WCW (TBS - 12/10)	3.1	5.8
WWF A-A (USA - 12/11)	2.9	7.2
NWA M.E. (TBS - 12/11)	2.5	4.3
NWA A.M. (TBS - 12/10)	1.6	4.7

(ANALYSIS: The move to Monday night has actually helped WWF's numbers back over a 3, somewhat surprising opposite Monday Night Football. NWA MAIN EVENT was back up to its average and WCW had its third week in four over a 3 but they can't have many shows like Saturday's to hold it.)

PINFALL PROFILE

STARRCADE FORECAST: WILL DUSTY SABOTAGE FINISH???

The behind-the-scenes soap opera in the NWA may be heating the Scope Coliseum in Norfolk better than the thermostat setting.

In recent days, the apparent vengefulness of Dusty Rhodes over being ousted as NWA booker has led to less than veiled threats on The Big Ball of Cholesterol's part. First, Dusty threatened to bolt to Vince McMahon, which no one took seriously.

In fact, a valued source has told MATWATCH Rhodes has called McMahon's people four times. Says the source: "The first two times, they were polite. The third time they got firmer. The last time, they flatly said: 'Look, quit wasting your time and money. We're NOT interested!'"

Then, Dusty let it be known that he was considering leaving to start a new promotion with Bill Watts, something no one in the industry finds believable. A key TBS official says, "We told him, if you want to do that, go on and do it." The heat between Watts & Rhodes has been so intense the mere idea seems laughable, though not inconceivable---this is wrestling we're talking about here.

Finally, Rhodes has reportedly been attempting to influence Lex Luger to refuse to do the planned STARRCADE main event finish vs. Ric Flair. Further, Dusty is said to be trying to convince the WWF to take Luger and himself as a package deal, something I would be surprised to see Titan do, since if they want Luger, they could downright afford him without Rhodes.

It is live TV, folks, and we could see something interesting but bet the mortgage that if Luger attempts to change the finish, it will be his last bout with a TBS NWA. I'd expect to see two title changes on this show: the U.S. tag belts and the TV title. But Rhodes has insisted to a number of people that he's history after STARRCADE. If so, I'll be greatly curious as to his swan song.

ROYAL RUMBLE CARD COMPLETE

I'm still of the opinion the Royal Rumble should be a USA live card as opposed to a pay-per-view. While last year's Rumble was superior to the PPV Bunkhouse Stampede, it fails to measure up with a payoff fans genuinely anticipate. Probably the key element here is if this is the time Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage split, or if the WWF waits until its February NBC prime-time special (my bet).

We'll see The Hart Foundation & Jim Duggan pair up against The Rougeaus & Dino Bravo in a 6-man battle; in a showdown for the crown, Harley Race meets King Haku; in a WWF ladies' title match, Rockin' Robin defends against Judy Martin; and in a posedown, the Anabolic Warrior faces Rick Rude in what promises to be the equal of last year's wonderful Dino Bravo weightlifting fraud.

The Rumble served its purpose last year with an 8.2 rating and 12 share in blunting the Jim Crockett pay-per-view efforts and, likely, expediting his plans to sell out. But I can't see this being an overwhelming sell on PPV, even if it is the Sunday before the Super Bowl. It'll make money but nowhere near the records Vince's guys will announce.

By the way, a relative barometer of SURVIVOR SERIES buy-ins indicates the rate was around 3.0-3.2%, probably the lowest of any Titan pay card yet. The show only did a 3.0 in New York City, if that is any barometer, as New York is predominantly Titan's tops.

I simply think we are finally at the stage where PPV saturation is equivalent to syndication's glut in pro wrestling and even Titan is going to be hard put to come up with the creative consistence to maintain its repetitive successes.

IV TEMPO (Week of Dec. 12-18)

RATING SCALE: PINFALL - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(AWA) - Repeat show: Cactus Jack Foley/Gary Young d. Billy Travis/Scott Steiner; Teijho Khan d. Mike Enos; Ronnie Garvin d. Alan Reynolds; Rock & Roll Express d. Keith Eric/The Hangman; Sgt. Slaughter DQ over Soldad Ustinov when Khan interferes. NO RATING.

(CWA/SYND.) - Jeff Jarrett/Brian Lee d. Rough & Ready; Sid Vicious d. William Thompson; Rick Casey d. Keith Eric; Stud Stable d. Todd Morton/Scott Steiner; VIDEOS: Beauty & the Beast, Jeff Jarrett. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PWTW) - Year-end Review II: replay of March show where Paul E. Dangerously assumes "hostile takeover" of PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK and announces plans to bounce Gordon Solie. NO RATING.

(WWC) - Ricky Santana d. Mr. Pogo; Victor Jovica d. El Exotico; WWC JR. HWT. TITLE: El Profe d. Invader III; MUSIC VIDEO: Ronnie Garvin. RESTHOLD.

(LTR) - Robert (Lyle Alzado) deals with two money issues: a rich kid who wants her father's money to substitute for grades and a six-figure offer to become Professor Pain, PhD, without his Maniac mask. MATCHES: Tully Blanchard & Lex Luger d. The Maniac in separate matches. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(W. CLASS) - J.J. Funk d. Mickey Finn; Eric Embry d. Jim Ward before Iceman Parsons, The Beast & Super Black Ninja run in and Michael Hayes, Steve Cox & Jeff Jarrett save; Stud Stable d. Nature's Best; Cox d. The Avenger; SBN d. Phillip Wylie; Jarrett/Hayes double DQ with Samoan Swat Team. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SCW) - John Michaels d. Steve Bryant and escapes run-in by Chic Donovan & Sir Samuel Kent; Mr. Wrestling II/Ted Oates win DQ over Dino Minnelli/Steve Lawler; Ranger Ross d. Eddie Sweat; Steve Prichard wins DQ over Donovan when Kent runs in before Michaels saves and midget Tom Thumb crotches Kent. REPLAY: Tommy Rich piledrives referee Wolfman Blackwell; INTERVIEW: Bucky Siegler changes name to SUPERSTAR Siegler. DRAW.

(CWF) - Danny Davis d. Gene Miller; Dutch Mantel d. Gary Phelps; Brad Armstrong d. Rock Regal; Kokina wins squash; Johnny & Davey Rich d. Super Dave Baxter/Alan Martin; Doug Furnas wins DQ over Detroit Demolition when Martin interferes. TAPE: Tennessee Stud d. The Dog. RESTHOLD.

(WWF) - [SUPERSTARS]: Hercules Hernandez d. Steve Lombardi; Honky Tonk Man/Greg Valentine d. Paul Crown/Rex Farmer; Other winners: Demolition, Curt Hennig, Bubba Bossman, King Haku, Anabolic Warrior. BRO. LOVE with Andre & Heenan. BOMB-PLUS. [SPOTLIGHT]: Ron Bass d. Ken Patera; Jake Roberts d. Black Knight; Rockers-Brainbusters brawl; Other winners: Hernandez, Rick Rude. ANGLE: Bro. Love-Slick-Hulk Hogan seg from SNME. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: Midnight Express d. Mike Simani/Bob Emery; Junkyard Dog d. Trent Knight; Varsity Club d. Gary Royal/Randy Hogan; Other winners: Barry Windham, Original Midnights, Russian A's, Texas Sonny Boys, Eddie Gilbert, Commandos, Rick Steiner, Sting, Road Warriors. DOUBLE BOMB....their worst effort of '88. [A.M.]: Gilbert d. Randy Mulkey; Russian A's d. Rick Allen/Ryan Wagner but Uncle Ivan, JYD run in and try to unmask RA #1; JYD/Steiner/Ivan d. Royal/Tony Suber/George South; Other winners: Ric Flair/ Windham, Texas Sonny Boys, Fantastics. BOMB....the failure of David Crockett to work with Paul E. killed this show. [MAIN EVENT]: Because of early deadline, we'll review next week.

(NWA/SYND.): [NWA PRO]: See last week's STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS for rundown on Columbus taping. Key match: Original Midnight Express d. Fantastics when Paul E. uses phone on Bobby Fulton. Cornette is jumped trying to tell ref of Paul E.'s villianry. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [WORLD WIDE]: All squash show, which includes a Flair/Windham tag victory. BOMB...see last week's issue for details.

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Dangerously, TBS: "David, I was gonna get you a course at the local university called Broadcasting 101 but we didn't want to spent the money on a hopeless cause."; 2. Cornette, TBS: "Next to Paul E. Dangerously, I could be elected Pope."; 3. Jim Ross, TBS: "Maybe Gorbacev did a little fashion consulting with him (Paul Jones) but I don't see a red spot on his head."; 4. Charlie Platt, CWF: "I find more enjoyment being joined by a Christmas tree than you (Dutch Mantel)."; 5. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "McMahon, you forget the thing San Francisco's most famous for: Rice-a-Roni...and I'm the real San Francisco treat."; 6. Terry Taylor, WWF, on Blue Blazer: "Big wrestler..big star..big moves..big deal!"; 7. Brother Love, WWF: "The WWF is not a place for ser-PENTS!"; 8. Dangerously & Ross, TBS: (PAUL E.) "You (Tony S. & Jim) are the best 2 announcers I know, next to Joe Garagiola." (ROSS) "He's out of work."; 9. Cornette, TBS: "The only thing Dangerous about Paul E. is his breath."; 10. Jerry Lawler, AWA: "When Tiejho (Khan) was a child, his mother used to feed him with a slingshot."; 11. Joe Pedicino, SCW, to Comrade Busich: "If we're going to have commentary, it's got to be in English."; 12. Busich, SCW: "Ranger Ross dodged bullets in Steubenville, Ohio."; 13. Dangerously, TBS: "I'll bet JYD isn't even housebroken."; 14. Ross, TBS: "These 2 (Commandos) could be walking billboards. They could have a lot of signage on their backs."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Dangerously, TBS: "When you think about it, David, when was the last time you watched UNDERDOG on TV?"; 2. Ross, TBS, when forced to hold Rick Steiner's dog: "Where's David when you need him?"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Ross, TBS: "It's not a happy time for Dusty (Rhodes) in the NWA now." 2. Ross, "I believe he's (Paul E.'s) a blatant liar!"

BEST PICTURES - 1. TBS, Jim Ross holding Steiner's dog; 2. SCW, shot of Steve Lawler choking Wrestling II; 3. WWF. Andre grabbing Bro. Love when Bruce mentions snakes.

WORST MAKEUP - Ray Candy, TBS, who looked like a Ringling Bros. clown with chalk white face paint.

NICKNAME OF THE WEEK - Dangerously, for calling Ross "The Dapper Yapper."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - W. CLASS, for no audio on announcers.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Sean Mooney, WWF, for saying "The Big Bossman...he will face Akeem," when discussing Bossman-Akeem as Big Leam in Montgomery; 2. W. CLASS, for graphic of Jeff JERRET.

BOO AWARDS - 1. AWA & ESPN, for not attempting to produce a followup show to SUPER CLASH III instead of a 2-month old rerun; 2. David Crockett, TBS. Folks, I'm honestly trying to keep from picking on this guy. If you watched Saturday a.m., tell me if I'm wrong but David never even tried to work with Dangerously.

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

MATWATCH ANNUAL: Folks, my printers have had to push back delivery because of late changes in Sugar Bowl media guides for Auburn University. So, I'm now shooting for a mailout Jan. 10. I apologize for the delay.

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE: Next week, we will offer a 12-page double issue with lots of your mail, some special comics by POTSHOT Bill Kunkel, and at least two I REMEMBER.... nostalgia pieces. We will not publish the eek of Jan. 2-8 because of Rebecca and me traveling with the Auburn band at the Sugar Bowl.

We'll mail out on Tuesday in order to have the STARRCADE recap on Page 1.

MAT WEEKLY: This is a new 2-page bulletin offered by Chris Siggia, 1638 W. 32nd St., Erie PA 16508. Cost: 75 cents an issue.

PARTING BLOWS

The Turner people are said to have made an informal offer to Hulk Hogan, which I'm told was far too low for him to consider.....the CWF shows in Chattanooga have been airing at a different time period every week for the past five and Saturday, only half of the show aired before THE NFL TODAY chimed in....KDNL in St. Louis has dropped PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK and is cutting from seven hours of pro wrestling a week to two....the weeknight strip of wrestling on WVEU Atlanta will move to 1 a.m. Jan. 9 to make way for THE PAT SAJAK SHOW.

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HOLIDAY WISHES

For making this one of the warmest and wonderful years I've known by meeting so many of you good folks by mail, by phone, and in person, we wish you the most joyous of Christmases or Hannukahs and an exceedingly prosperous New Year.

Without you, there is no MATWATCH, so my fondest thanks for making this venture a successful one in its earliest stages. I only hope we can serve you even better in 1989.

STEVE

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